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FOREIGN NEWS ON SHEEP AND WOOL

CONDITIONS IN FOREIGN WOOL MARKETS IN JANUARY, 1928

The first series of the London Wool Sales this year has closed with prices 5 to 10 per cent higher for most grades than at the close of the last series of 1927, and up to the highest rates for the series, according to a cablegram received by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from Agricultural Commissioner Foley at London. Competition has been generally active and withdrawals light. As compared with the closing rates of the last series greasy fine merinos were about on a par, others 5 per cent higher; fine crossbreds 5 to 7½ per cent higher, fine medium 10 per cent higher, others 5 per cent higher; scoured fine merinos at par, others 5 per cent higher, faulties 5 to 10 per cent higher; lambs' wool 10 to 15 per cent higher; scoured crossbreds 5 to 7½ higher for all qualities; slipes fine and medium crossbred 5 to 7½ per cent higher, low crossbred 5 per cent higher; greasy capes barely steady, scoured par to 5 per cent higher; Punta Arenas par to 5 per cent higher.

Prices with comparisons were as follows:

WOOL: Prices at London Wool Sales

Grade	1927	1928	1928
	Closing	Opening	Closing
	6th series	1st series	1st series
	December 13	January 20	February 1
(Clean basis)	Cents	Cents	Cents
70's ordinary	99.4	101.4	96.3
64's ordinary	89.2	95.3	93.3
60's ordinary	83.1	89.2	86.2
58's ordinary	78.0	81.1	81.1
56's ordinary	73.0	77.0	77.0
50's ordinary	48.7	50.7	51.7
48's -----	44.6	47.6	47.6
46's -----	42.6	45.6	44.6
44's -----	40.6	43.6	42.6
40's -----	39.5	42.6	40.6
36's -----	38.5	42.6	39.5

Source: Cabled reports from Agricultural Commissioner Foley at London.



Purchases at the London Sales in 1927 by the United States did not differ greatly from purchases of the two previous years. A larger proportion of the amount offered was sold than for the two previous years.

LONDON WOOL SALES: Quantities of wool offered and sold

Source	Quantity offered		
	1925	1926	1927
	<u>Bales</u>	<u>Bales</u>	<u>Bales</u>
New South Wales .....	123,285	139,081	145,690
Queensland .....	99,231	137,219	68,162
Victoria .....	76,375	92,766	89,851
South Australia .....	20,370	32,933	30,425
West Australia .....	34,774	40,882	36,519
Tasmania .....	6,949	4,201	3,096
New Zealand .....	256,295	285,925	293,170
South Africa .....	37,332	26,738	20,120
Punta Arenas and Falkland Islands ...	96,731	86,746	74,822
River Plate .....	6,453	6,571	5,156
Sundries .....	15,216	19,737	20,753
Total offered .....	773,011	872,799	787,764
	Quantity sold		
	<u>Per cent</u>	<u>Per cent</u>	<u>Per cent</u>
United Kingdom .....	219,500	283,500	272,500
European continent .....	274,500	313,000	281,000
United States .....	16,500	14,500	15,500
Total sold .....	510,500	611,000	569,000
Ratio amount sold to amount offered :	66.0	70.0	72.2

Source: Quantity offered, from Annual Reports of Chas. Balne and Company.  
Quantity sold, from Schwartz, Buchanan and Company.

Some improvement in Bradford wool industry

A slightly increased business in the wool textile industry at Bradford during the last quarter of 1927 has given grounds for confidence as to more favorable trade in the future, according to Consul Thompson at Bradford. At the middle of January, prices of piece goods and semi-manufactures advanced on account of the rising wool prices at Australian markets, and then showed little change until the latter part of the month when values were strengthened by the advancing rates at the London Sales. While yarn prices for the week ending January 27 were only slightly higher, spinners were raising their quotations.



The situation in the raw wool markets continues to dominate the Bradford market. The late easier tendency in primary markets has abated and a hardening of values has been brought about by keen competition. At the recent sale in Christchurch, New Zealand, for example, all but 100 bales of the 27,000 bales offered were sold.

Unemployment in the British woolen and worsted industry showed improvement in 1927 over the two previous years. The number employed in the worsted branch of the industry for the week ended November 26, 1927, was 95,073 as compared with 92,054 on November 27, 1926, while the number in the woolen section totaled 65,732 on November 26, 1927 as compared with 63,134 on November 27, 1926. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the wool industry as a whole was 7.1 on November 21, 1927 as compared with 14.2 on November 22, 1926, and 9.6 on November 28, 1925.

#### British exports of wool yarn and cloth

The quantity of wool yarn and cloth exported from the United Kingdom in December was above the same month in 1925 and 1926 except worsted cloth. An index of the volume of exports of total wool yarn and goods (taking 1925 as a base and weighting quantities by the value in 1925) showed that 1927 was about on a par with 1925, but above 1926. The indexes worked out as follows: For 1925 - 100, for 1926 - 88.9, and for 1927 - 99.5. Actual quantities exported of the different manufactures were as follows:

WOOL YARN AND CLOTH: Exports from the United Kingdom for calendar years 1925, 1926 and 1927

Classification	:	1925	:	1926	:	1927
	:		:		:	
Woolen carded yarn, 1,000 lbs. ...	:	5,971	:	5,571	:	6,539
Worsted yarn, 1,000 lbs. ....	:	38,756	:	31,806	:	45,316
Woolen cloth, 1,000 sq. yds. ....	:	132,174	:	119,357	:	130,916
Worsted cloth, 1,000 sq. yds. ...	:	47,302	:	42,950	:	39,980

Source: Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom.

Most of the increase in worsted yarn exports was due to the increased exports to Germany, with some increase also to Japan, Belgium, and the Netherlands. Germany also took considerably more piece goods than in the previous year. Other increases in exports of piece goods were distributed among the smaller countries. Canada and China took much less woolen cloth than in 1926.

